

April 1, 2020

**Children & Family Services Division  
Childcare - CEOG**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**MODIFIED OPERATING PRACTICES**

- Q1     What is the guidance for programs using common space areas such as a gymnasium or outside playground? Should they be sanitizing the space/equipment in-between different classrooms using the space? Can they still be using this space?**

As per CDC guidelines, continue to follow the modified group size by staggering common space usage including gymnasiums, playgrounds, bathrooms, cafeterias and touchpoints should be sanitized in-between groups.

- Q2     How did you come to increasing the point value for school aged children? In some cases this change will now require providers to reduce current families. Is it possible to adjust this back to the .05 and simply adjust the maximum class size to 9 instead of 18**

All age groups over the age of 18 months should be following the modified group size of 9 children to one staff.

- Q3     When using dividers does the "room" need to meet the 35 square feet per child (so for 9 children it would need to be 315 square feet) or can the common areas still count since each "room" would be rotating through those common rooms?**

Each room needs to meet the licensing requirement for minimum s.f. this would mean that a room that would serve a group size of 10 that includes 9 children and 1 staff person would need to be a minimum of 315 s.f. (9 x 35). Common areas used by the group do not count in this total.

- Q4     Is it safer to put rest beds/cots 6 feet apart? How often to I wash each child's cot sheet and blanket?**

Yes, if at all possible, space cots/mats/cribs/pack-n-plays 6 feet apart. If you are not able to provide 6 feet between, space as far as possible as well as alternate children head to feet.

For sheets and blankets, the most important thing you can do is keep them separate for each child; do not store together. For washing, once a week is recommended, sooner if soiled.

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

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**Q5 What is the safest way to clean books? Lysol? Sunlight as a natural disinfectant?**

The safest way to clean books is to wipe with damp cloth with soap and water.

It is not recommended to use Lysol spray or disinfecting wipes. Lysol spray and disinfecting wipes leave a residue that children get on their hands that could get into their mouth.

As for setting in the sunlight for natural disinfecting, it wouldn't hurt, but it is not recommended as a standard disinfecting practice.

**HEALTH SCREENING**

**Q6 Can I post the health questions and have parents update their answers on a daily basis, rather than to personally ask everyone when so many arrive at the same time?**

If needed, you can post the health questions but, a staff person should be reviewing the answers on a timely basis throughout the day.

**PRIORITIZATION AND ENROLLMENT**

**Q7 I am a preschool with extended care. I am only licensed for children 3 to 5. I have a essential worker and I have her four year old. She was wondering if her other daughter that is 2.5 yrs old can come?**

Yes, please maintain your licensing capacity and the modified group size

**PAYMENT AND PROVIDER PORTAL**

**Q8 Why did the State use the provider portal for CEOG? Isn't it used for CCAP?**

While the provider portal wasn't designed for this purpose, we felt we needed to use infrastructure that was already in place so we could get grant dollars distributed to childcare providers as quickly as possible.

**GENERAL**

**Q9 Why are licensers able to come into my home to re-license me when I am being asked to limit access as much as possible?**

Early childhood licensing specialists will be following State and CDC recommendations when making on-site visits. However, they will not plan to be on-site during the COVID emergency unless deemed necessary. Our goal is, always, to help ensure the continued health, safety and wellbeing of children, families and childcare workers.

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